

next summer by the USCGC *Hickory*, a brand-new seagoing buoy tender, but she will not be forgotten.

I am proud to commemorate the decommissioning of this great ship, the *Sedge*, and to honor the distinguished achievements of the officers and enlisted personnel who have served our Nation so well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ON THE WORK OF ANNE AND KIRK DOUGLAS, HONOREES, TREE-PEOPLE'S EVENING UNDER THE HARVEST MOON EVENT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to reflect on the exceptional work of Anne and Kirk Douglas, who will be honored by TreePeople on October 19 for their extraordinary commitment to children.

In 1997, Anne and Kirk Douglas established the Anne and Kirk Douglas Playground Award to improve Los Angeles school campuses. Collaborating with TreePeople's Campus Forestry Program, community members and organizations, Anne and Kirk have helped fund new playground equipment, tree planting, outdoor classrooms, and other worthy projects throughout Los Angeles County.

Improving schools is a wonderful community service. Because of Anne and Kirk's work, many children can play on safe equipment, enjoy the beauty and shade trees provide, and admire the natural environment. Anne and Kirk have every reason to be proud of their dedication to improving the lives of countless children.

The Anne and Kirk Douglas Playground Award not only makes schools better, but also strengthens the bond among community members. Parents, students, school staff and local businesses work together for the betterment of the community. This is truly a win-win situation for all involved.

I am proud to extend my sincere congratulations to Anne and Kirk on this special honor from TreePeople, and wish them much continued success.●

IN RECOGNITION OF SHEB WOOLEY

• Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and recognize a fine American treasure. This talented individual has enjoyed a remarkable career in the entertainment industry spanning from the hills of Hollywood to the recording labels of Nashville.

This gentleman's name is Mr. Sheb Wooley. Mr. Wooley is currently in poor health and I would like to take this opportunity to wish him well and reflect upon his many accomplishments.

Sheb Wooley is a genuine American cowboy who throughout his early years earned a living on the rodeo circuit. Born in Erick, OK, in 1921, Sheb, who grew up facing the harsh realities of the Dust Bowl during the 1930s, turned

to entertainment after his father traded a shotgun for a guitar.

Sheb's first encounter with the music industry occurred in Nashville in 1945 when he signed a deal with the Bullet record label and WSM. He then ventured west to Fort Worth, TX, for a regular radio spot. While in Texas, upon the advice of a friend at WSM, Sheb decided to try his luck as an actor in California. Soon after his arrival in Hollywood, Sheb appeared in several western films and worked with such film heroes as Errol Flynn and John Wayne. His most notable film was "High Noon" in which he played an outlaw gang leader opposite the town sheriff, Gary Cooper. During his movie career he appeared in several more films including "The War Wagon," "Outlaw Josie Wales," "Rio Bravo," "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," and "Hoosiers."

In 1958, Sheb was cast in the role of Pete Nolan on the popular television series "Rawhide," and later made many television appearances including the "Ed Sullivan Show," "Lone Ranger," "American Bandstand," "Hee Haw," and "Murder She Wrote," writing several scripts along the way.

While Sheb was enjoying his time on the screen, he was also working on writing country music. After several attempts, Sheb landed a smash hit with "Purple People Eater." In 1959 this tune climbed the pop charts and eventually became one of MGM's most successful singles of all time.

And then there was Ben Colder, the drunken persona that Sheb created and ultimately played as a cast member on the television series, "Hee Haw." Under the guise of Colder, Sheb performed many hit parodies of the country music artists of the 1960s, including "Don't Go Near the Eskimos." In 1969, Sheb wrote and recorded the theme song for "Hee Haw."

The career of Sheb Wooley has been as colorful as the characters he has played on and off the screen. He has won many accolades over the years, including the Western Heritage Award for 9 consecutive years and Songwriter of the Year in 1992. He never strayed far from his roots and always knew how to rope in an audience. I wish him well and pray that his health returns to him soon.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN DILLON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Kevin Dillon of Prospect, KY, for winning the top honor in a recently held national essay competition sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association. This competition was judged by Members of Congress, authors, and national health reporters.

The American Psychiatric Association accepted up to five essays from each State; 14 States participated in this year's competition. This year's essay topic was "When not to keep a

secret." In his essay, Kevin provides his readers with a very real and very frightening scenario. The story describes a scenario in which someone is feeling down and confides in a friend that he plans to commit suicide. Kevin offers two possible endings to his essay. In the first instance, the friend reports the suicide plan to the police, who intervene and save the boy's life. In the other scenario, no one intervenes, the boy kills himself and his friend is left with an enormous amount of guilt and regret.

Mr. President, Kevin Dillon, a sophomore at St. Xavier High School, deserves to be applauded for tackling such a difficult and important issue in such an elegant and stylistic manner. His story depicts the ideal situation when keeping a secret becomes a detrimental and dangerous act for all parties involved. Once again, I congratulate Kevin Dillon for this distinction and urge him to continue to take on the tough issues this Nation faces today.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALBERT JOHNSON

• Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the ongoing efforts of my friend and fellow Tennessean, Mr. Albert Wm. Johnson of Nashville. Mr. Johnson is chairman and CEO of Dobson & Johnson Financial, a leading national mortgage banking advisory firm since its founding in 1955.

Let me say that Albert Johnson continues to enjoy a remarkable life. Upon graduation from college, he entered the military service as an aviation cadet en route to a distinguished military career. Mr. Johnson flew 49 missions against German bombing targets in WW II before being shot down in Austria and becoming a prisoner of war, POW, until the end of the conflict. During his World War II service, Al Johnson accumulated numerous decorations, citations, and commendations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, DFC, with two Oak Leaf Clusters. After the war, Mr. Johnson was a senior instructor assigned to assist the Tennessee Air National Guard until returning to Europe to again serve with notable commendation on the NATO staff responsible for planning Germany's integration into NATO.

Upon leaving active military service, Albert Johnson returned to Nashville and cofounded Dobson & Johnson, thereby embarking on a brilliant business career that has featured the holding of billions of dollars in residential mortgage loans in trust for State mutual saving banks, insurance companies, pension funds, and private investors. His remarkable leadership in the mortgage banking and real estate industry has received well-deserved national acclaim and his firm has been recognized as one of the largest private business enterprises in Nashville.